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RL:0854

HB 2262 RELATING TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Statement for
House Committees on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Legislative Management
Public Hearing - February 2, 1990

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Richard Brock, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Ray Tabata, Sea Grant
James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

HB 2262 would establish an advisory task force within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to evaluate the State's fishing laws and rules:

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We appreciate and concur with the intent of this bill and recognize the general need for appropriate statutes and improvement in enforcement pertinent to the wise management of fisheries resources. However, we have serious reservations both about the composition of the task force and its ability to accomplish the tasks outlined in Section 2 of the bill.

With regard to the composition, we note that the task force is to consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor, six would be appointed from the public-at-large. Based on the tasks identified in paragraphs 1 and 2, it would appear that members from the public-at-large would not have the extensive technical knowledge required to make the determinations requested. In fact a "determination" in the most definitive sense, of the "suitability of catch statistics" and "effectiveness of laws and rules in preventing overfishing" may not be possible even from the scientific community. Fisheries specialists have spent years evaluating these issues and are in general able to provide only best estimate approximations.

The last directive of paragraph 2, that requests the task force to determine the degree to which officers have difficulty in enforcing these provisions could perhaps be addressed by the task force. Similarly, they may be able to provide guidance on the topics covered in paragraphs 3 and 4.

It is our understanding that DLNR's Main Hawaiian Islands Marine Resource Investigations program (MHI-MRI program) and its advisory committee may be accomplishing much the same tasks as would be covered by the provisions of this bill. Perhaps greater support for DLNR's present efforts including additional funds would be a more productive approach.

If HB 2262 is to be passed, we suggest that paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) (page 2, lines 16 and 19; and page 3, lines 3 and 6) be amended by substituting the word "Evaluate" for "Determine".



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SB 3312 RELATING TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
February 9, 1990

SB 3312 is a companion bill to HB 2262 on which the Environmental Center earlier submitted testimony. Our previous statement remains applicable to SB 3312 and is enclosed for your consideration.

Enclosure